

REMARKS

Claims 38-74 have been replaced with new claims 75-123, which avoid the objections raised in points 1-3 on page 2 of the Office Action and, it is believed, are not open to rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claims 38-42 and 64-74 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 over Jarrett. Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the examiner has indicated that claims 43-63 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 43 and 44 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 120 and 91 respectively.

Claim 43 specifies a holding spring for keeping the acting element in the withdrawn position. By indicating that claim 43 contains allowable subject matter, the examiner acknowledges that Jarrett does not disclose or suggest a holding spring within the meaning of claim 43 and, in particular, that the spring 37 disclosed by Jarrett is not a holding spring within the meaning of claim 43. Similarly to claim 43, claim 120 specifies a holding spring for urging the action arm from the projecting position towards the withdrawn position. Based on the examiner's position with respect to claim 43, applicant submits that Jarrett does not disclose or suggest a holding spring within the meaning of claim 120. Applicant therefore submits that claim 120 is patentable and it follows that the dependent claims also are patentable.

Claim 44 specifies that the safety catch comprises a reel. Although the new claim 91 is not a verbatim combination of the previous claims 38, 39 and 44, it nevertheless contains the limitation of claim 44 that the safety catch comprises a reel member that is movable relative to the acting arm between a locking position in which the reel member engages a rear surface of the acting arm and prevents movement of the acting arm from the projecting position to the withdrawn position and a releasing position in which the reel member permits movement of the acting arm from the projecting position to the withdrawn position. By indicating that claim 44 contains allowable subject matter, the examiner acknowledges that Jarrett does not disclose or suggest a reel within the meaning of claim 44. Based on the examiner's position with respect to claim 44, applicant submits that Jarrett does not disclose or suggest a reel member within the meaning of claim 91. Applicant therefore submits that claim 91 is

patentable and it follows that the dependent claims also are patentable.

Claim 75 is directed to a locking arrangement and includes the limitation that when the lock unit and counterpart unit are installed and the one part (such as a door) is in a closed position relative to the other part (such as a door frame), the free end regions of the locking elements overlap each other, and when the acting arm is in the projecting position and the safety catch locks the acting arm against movement from the projecting position to the withdrawn position, the second free end region is captive between the gripping formation of the acting arm and the first free end region.

Jarrett discloses a compact electric strike in which a bolt 18 is turnable relative to a latch case 11 between a locked position (FIGS. 5 and 6) and an unlocked position (FIG. 7). Turning of the bolt 18 between the locked and unlocked positions is selectively prevented by a blocking arm 30, which is pivotable relative to the lock case between a first position (FIG. 1), in which it blocks pivotal movement of the bolt 18, and a second position (FIG. 4) in which it permits pivotal movement of the bolt.

Allowing for differences in terminology, the examiner considers that the blocking arm 30 of Jarrett is an apt counterpart for the acting arm of claim 75 and that the portion of the blocking arm that engages the bolt 18 is an apt counterpart for the gripping formation of claim 75.

Claim 75 distinguishes over Jarrett at least with respect to the requirement that the second free end region (the counterpart of which is the part 22 shown in Jarrett) is captive between the gripping formation and the first free end region (the end of the bolt 18).

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that the claims of record distinguish over Jarrett.

Respectfully submitted,



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